The Chicago Tribune.

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WASHINGTON.

Brother Ku-Klux Fight Day in Congress.

Speech of Mr. Blair, of Missouri, Entertains the Senate, and Divers Speakers Hold Forth in the House.

To-Day's Question--What will be Done with the San Domingo Report?

Details of the Arrangement Entered into by the Salt Monopolists.

[By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, April 3.—In the Chilean Troubles matter, the President, though, as you remember, promised to send in the report to-day, has not done so. The intention is now to send it in to-morrow, and it is probable that it may have been sent in before the close of the present session. The President is engaged within a few days in a thorough examination of the whole subject, and has given the Government officers to understand that they have been called upon for information which they must furnish without delay. The President will not send in the report until he is ready to do so, and he is ready to do so as soon as the necessary information is received. The Chilean matter will be fully explained in the report. One of the reasons why the President is anxious to get it in is that he may send it to Congress before the close of the session, and thus give that body an opportunity to act upon it

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TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1871.

CANADIAN RECIPROCITY.

The Toronto *Telegraph* responds to our appeal for the opening of the navigation of the St. Lawrence River for the largest class of sail and steam vessels, from Montreal to Chicago, by a frank admission that the Canadian Government would be justified by Canadian sentiment in appropriating the necessary money for that work, without waiting for any concession on the part of the United States. The St. Lawrence River is the natural outlet of the waters of the lakes to the ocean, and the commerce of the Western States would naturally have followed those waters, were it not for the political division of territory which assigned the outlet of that stream and the greater part of its course to a foreign country. The Dominion of Canada, though our nearest neighbor, though its territory is almost locked in our own, though our lake ports ought to be the domestic markets for its Western provinces, though its people speak our language, and are largely of a kindred blood, is as much a foreign nation for commercial purposes as Spain. Yet for all purposes of trade and commerce a national boundary is only an imaginary line. A bushel of potatoes grown in Canada will sustain life in the United States just as well as a bushel grown in this country, and a blanket made in the United States will keep out the cold just as effectively in Canada as a similar blanket made there. If the Canadians desire to be governed by a King and Parliament, while we prefer to be governed by a President and Congress, that fact does not alter in the slightest degree the nutritive elements of the potato, or the warming properties of the blanket, nor does it lessen the advantages of exchanging the one for the other, if the potato-grower or the blanket-manufacturer desire to make the exchange. Nor should these political divisions be allowed to divert trade from its natural channels.

The Canadians have the means to make the St. Lawrence navigable to Lake Erie. The works necessary to be constructed must be constructed in Canadian territory. The enlargement of the existing canals can be completed in three years, and the lake navigation which now feeds the Erie Canal and five trunk railways can pour a large share of its freights into Montreal, which then becomes a seaport for the West. The advantage of this to the Canadians is, of course, manifest, but its direct pecuniary benefit to the United States is almost inestimable. Prices of breadstuffs and provisions at New York and Montreal being the same as at Liverpool, less the cost of wearing, or the difference between the cost of the farm in the same as at New York and Montreal, less the cost of transportation. With the place of export changed to Montreal, a reduction of freights equal to one-sixth the price paid to New York shippers will add one-sixth to the price of the article in the hands of the producer. If it is profitable to produce breadstuffs, and give one bushel to pay the freight on another to New York, how much more profitable to have two bushels carried to market for the price now paid for transporting one. In this reduction of freight, the additional price paid to the producers on the grain shipped from this single district will amount to several millions of dollars annually.

The Canadian papers urge upon the Ministry the completion of these canals, and the opening of the great commercial highway to the sea at once. They propose to let the finishing stand as an open question, but the opening of the St. Lawrence and Welland Canals to our steamers will, of course, necessitate a change in our customs and navigation laws. We cannot expect to send our grain, flour, and provisions to Montreal, there to be shipped by steamer to Liverpool, without, in like manner, opening our ports to Canadian vessels and to American vessels bringing return cargoes of Canadian products. The Canadas can supply the prairies with lumber, and will do so if we will permit them. We let Canadian vessels out of our ports. American vessels cannot load Canadian exports for lumber, because foreign lumber is taxed 20 per cent. We have erected a wall of taxes between the two countries, when, in fact, it is to the direct advantage of both to permit the most unrestricted commerce. The Canadians will build these canals, which we cannot do; they will bring us a seaport at one-third less cost for transportation, and, in view of the additional advantages that would accrue to our producers, can we not afford to take their lumber at 20 per cent less than we now pay for it?

Let the Canadian Government go on with the canal enlargement, and, so sure as that river is navigable to the lakes, the West will compel the removal of every legal obstruction now existing in this country to the fullest and most satisfactory commercial reciprocity between the two countries. The *Telegraph* seems disposed to think that the East is firmly committed to the Chinese-wall policy. This is a mistake. The Representatives of Maine and Connecticut, with a respectable portion of those from Massachusetts and New York, voted, the other day, for free coal and free salt, and, when a threat was put forth to the Maine delegation that free potatoes would come next, they replied that they were ready for that issue. The high-tariff policy is weaker in New England to-day than it was in the West three years ago.

THE CASE OF ABBOTT.

A Washington despatch states that members of the Committee on Elections and Privileges in the Senate have expressed themselves favorably to a report admitting Mr. Abbott to the Senate from North Carolina. While we are prepared to expect much from the rigor of party, we do not credit this statement. The facts are that on the day of the election for Senator, a majority of the members of each house were present, and voted that in each house a majority of those present voted for Mr. Vance. That, next day, the two houses met in convention, and comparing their separate action, found that Vance had a majority in each house present. The question or dispute as to these facts, it appears, however, that Vance was disqualified under the Fourteenth Amendment, in the same manner as Patterson, of Tennessee, and Miller, of Georgia, were, and that Congress has not removed his disabilities. Abbott therefore claims that the vote for Vance was void, and that, as he (Abbott) received a majority of all the other votes given, he is elected. Vance received nearly two-thirds of the aggregate vote given; Abbott about one-third. The law of Congress requires that, in the absence of both Houses, a majority of the members elected to each House shall be present, and the person receiving a majority of that quorum shall be considered elected. Abbott did not receive a majority of the votes of the Legislature. If the votes for Vance were void, then in neither house was the vote equal to a quorum of the body, and the whole election was void and illegal. Certainly, under no hypothesis was Abbott elected.

The Senate may declare that Vance's election was void, but it cannot, without a gross perversion of the law and of the facts, declare that a man who received less than a majority of a quorum of the members present in either house was elected.

The Boston *Advertiser*, replying to our remarks on "British Boroughs," and their influence in bringing about the dispossession of Mr. Sumner from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, says:

> "The state affairs seem to have grown out of the Chicago fire, and the Boroughs out of the Peninsular War. It would be as well to attribute the Boroughs to the Peninsular War as to attribute the Chicago fire to Mr. Sumner. He made no preparations for any such fire, nor any circumstances which led to it."

The whole affair did not arise from the fact that Senator Anthony and Chairman of the Foreign committee, after giving Sim plenty of time to get possession of that end of the Erie Superintendents, conductors and engineers were put in the place of the Republican appointees, and then, after the Republicans had completed all the unfinished or fully equivalent, on an average, to a half-mile of extra travel each way per day. This, for 50,000 passengers, is 25,000 miles per day of extra travel; 25,000 miles travel requires 4,350 hours' time, which, at an average of twenty-five cents per hour, is $1,522.50 per day, or $15,225.00 per week. Hence the cost of putting the Madison street sidewalks in good repair (they may still be of plank, but firm, smooth, and level) does not be more than equal to the cost of making four miles of new road, at say, $1 per lineal foot. This would be $21,120. Less than twice the cost of the week's repairs broke by a single intersection of Madison themselves. Then, the party holding the Erie Railway had property holdings on Madison street, and that of property reached via Madison street, a good set of sidewalks would pay the former every week or month. When the Republican interest was restored to the road, and there was nothing left but to await the trial, which came off in November last, before the Hon. Blatchford, Circuit Judge, at Chicago, and which, by the way, stands on the docket as the first case for trial, and the first case, and the case. But if this the Erie party discovered that their telegraphic wire was worthless, and beat a disorderly retreat. But these were but the advance guard. As the long-tunnel, about fifteen miles from Binghamton, by four or five hundred Erie workmen, commanded by Erie officers, ready to fight, if by the time Ramsey's party came up they had been reinforced to eight hundred men, while Ramsey had, all told, four hundred and fifty. The two trains advanced, and actually ran into each other with sufficient force to smash the cow-catchers and the pilot-beams. On the route, or of the road some words with Peters, and finally drew a revolver and shot him dead. Then, in the confusion both trains emptied, and the Albanians rushing on the Erie men, shouting and ready to fight, the Erie men suddenly fell to the parts, and a good many of them scaled the mountains or ran through the tunnel, for safety. There were a few pistol shots, some were hurt with clubs, but just as the fight threatened a great riot, the Forty-fourth Regiment of State militia appeared, and quiet was restored. Here the physical contest culminated, the star of Ramsey still in the ascendant, but Fisk in possession of about ten miles of the road.

Hereupon Governor Hoffman, at the request of both parties, took possession of the whole road, as a military measure, and placed two officers of his staff in charge of it.

Thus the law broke down, and military force superseded it. Meanwhile Judge Clute, of the County Court of Albany, issued writs of injunction against Fisk and Gould and his confreres for attempting to steal the road. Barnard issued a peremptory writ for the arrest of Fisco, Ramsey, and Van Valkenburg without delay and without bail, and these writs Judge Cardozo discharged on habeas corpus. Judge Barnard ordered the arrest of Clute as well as the others, and avowed his determination to devote the rest of his term of office to the enforcement of the law. The parties fled from the State, and the others could not im mediately be found.

At last the day arrived for the election. The books had mysteriously returned to the hands of Fisk before. The two parties met in the same room, for an hour, organized separately, and proceeded to hold their independent elections. Field and Sherman, for Erie, had provided the Erie party with a majority of the Board of Ramsey, Fisco & Co., for shamming the books. The intent was to have the Sheriff serve it just as the meeting was to be held, and so prevent Ramsey from voting. Ramsey got his vote in a little within which the election must be held. But as the two parties voted separately, this really was counting wasted. Without debating all the counter injunctions which were several days pending, it is enough to say that each party declared that its own ticket was unanimously elected, as if was another party voting in connection with the other. The Erie ticket was elected by 15,000 votes, the Ramsey ticket by 10,742. Governor Hoffman remained in military possession of the road, and there was nothing left but to await the trial, which came off in November last, before the Hon. Blatchford, Circuit Judge, at Chicago, and which, by the way, stands on the docket as the first case for trial, and the first case, and the case. But if this the Erie party discovered that their telegraphic wire was worthless, and beat a disorderly retreat. But these were but the advance guard. As the long-tunnel, about fifteen miles from Binghamton, by four or five hundred Erie workmen, commanded by Erie officers, ready to fight. By

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PROPOSALS.

OHIO RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

Zig-Zag Dams and River Excavation.

Sealed proposals will be received at the United States Engineer Office, in Cincinnati, Ohio, until 12 o'clock, M., on the 15th day of April, 1871, for the following zig-zag dams and river excavation, viz:

From—	To—	Length of dam.	No. of Cuts.	No. of Cubic Yards.
Hooper's or Lower Island	Foot Twelve Islands	1,000		
Twelve Islands	Foot Big Island	1,000		
Big Island	Foot Big Bend	1,000		
Big Bend	Foot Big Bend	1,000		
Foot Big Bend	Foot Big Bend	1,000		
Foot Big Bend	Foot Big Bend	1,000		
Foot

CHICAGO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Annual Meeting—The Financial Condition of the Institution.

Reports of the President, Secretary, Librarian, and Inspectors of Election.

Addresses by Judge Farwell, E. L. Brown, and Others.

The annual meeting of the Chicago Library Association was held last evening, at Library Hall. The attendance was large.

Mr. C. C. Bonney, the retiring President of the association, called the meeting to order, and the minutes of the last meeting were read by Mr. H. S. Austin, Secretary and Adopted.

FINANCE.

Mr. Ritt, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, reported that, at the time of their annual report, there was a balance on hand of $1,071.56, and the receipts since that time had been $1,705.83, making a total of $2,777.39. The expenditures had been $2,777.39, leaving a balance of $0.00. The receipts had been derived from the following sources: Life memberships, $1,150; annual dues, $1,150; initiation fees, $30; sale of catalogues, $75.83; sale of waste paper, $50; rent of rooms, $300. The expenditures had been for the following purposes: Salaries, $1,200; gas, $150; fuel, $150; insurance, $100; printing, $100; incidentals, $127.39; total, $2,777.39. The committee had examined the books and vouchers of the Treasurer, and found them correct. The committee had also examined the books of the Librarian, and found them correct. The committee had also examined the books of the Secretary, and found them correct. The committee had also examined the books of the Inspectors of Election, and found them correct. The committee would recommend that the sum of $1,000 be appropriated for the purchase of books during the year; that the sum of $1,000 be appropriated for the payment of salaries during the year; that the sum of $150 be appropriated for the payment of gas during the year; that the sum of $150 be appropriated for the payment of fuel during the year; that the sum of $100 be appropriated for the payment of insurance during the year; that the sum of $100 be appropriated for the payment of printing during the year; that the sum of $100 be appropriated for the payment of incidentals during the year; that the sum of $1,000 be appropriated for the payment of rent during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the assessment on the property during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the taxes on the property during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the water rent during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the insurance during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the printing during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the incidentals during the year; that the sum of $50 be appropriated for the payment of the